

P21250.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Tetsuro TOYODA et al.

Serial No : Not Yet Assigned (National Stage of PCT/JP00/00355)

Filed : Concurrently Herewith (International Filing Date January 25, 2000)

For : DESCRIBING AND STORING METHOD OF  
ALIGNMENT INFORMATION

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fees and the examination of the above-identified patent application on the merits, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows (a marked-up copy of the claim amendments is provided as an attachment to this Amendment):

5. (Amended-Clean Text) The method according to claim 1, in which the gap information is described by using the residue number and/or the number of residues which indicates the location and the length of a gap region existing in the alignment information of more than two sequences, or a numerical data convertible to those numbers by calculation.

09869312-110801